

**Environmental Justice Strategic Plan  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

**Outline**

	Preface	
I.	Introduction	2
II.	Mission, Vision, and Definitions	2
III.	Integration of Environmental Justice - Priorities and Strategic Targets	4
	A. Environmental Justice Priorities	
	1. Agency-wide Environmental Justice Priorities	
	2. Strategic Targets Linked to Priorities	
	B. Environmental Justice Strategic Targets	
	1. Goal 1: Clean Air and Global Climate Change	
	2. Goal 2: Clean and Safe Water	
	3. Goal 3: Land Preservation and Restoration	
	4. Goal 4: Healthy Communities and Ecosystems	
	5. Goal 5: Compliance and Environmental Stewardship	
	6. Cross-Goal Strategies	
	7. Regions	
IV.	Linking the Strategic Plan to Budget and Performance	5
Appendix 1:	Summary of Consultation Efforts	7
Appendix 2:	Evaluation and Reporting Progress	

**I. INTRODUCTION**

The Agency's Environmental Justice Strategic Plan (EJ Strategic Plan) integrates the Agency's environmental justice efforts into the Agency's Strategic Plan through the use of Environmental Justice Strategic Targets— specific, measurable commitments to achieving environmental justice. The EJ Strategic Plan also identifies Agency-wide environmental justice priorities, which are cross-cutting issues critical to the health and environmental quality of many communities with environmental justice concerns. These priorities and strategic targets help align efforts across the Agency and help measure progress toward achieving common goals. This planning document is one of the many tools used to help the Agency to: (1) integrate environmental justice effectively into its programs, policies, and activities; and (2) evaluate the results of its work with respect to disproportionately burdened communities.

The EJ Strategic Plan will be revised and updated, as needed, to adjust to changing conditions and to incorporate the best thinking of the entire environmental justice stakeholder community. At a minimum, the EJ Strategic Plan will be revisited and reviewed in conjunction with the review of the Agency's Strategic Plan, which currently occurs every three years. The EJ Strategic Plan describes the Agency's environmental justice integration effort and guides the Agency's environmental justice planning over the next 3-5 years.

**II. MISSION, VISION, and DEFINITIONS****A. Agency Mission Statement**

EPA's mission is to protect human health and the environment.

**B. Environmental Justice Vision Statement**

Environmental justice is the goal to be achieved for all communities and persons across this Nation. Environmental justice is achieved when everyone, regardless of race, culture, or income, enjoys the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards **and** equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work.

**C. EPA's Definition of Environmental Justice**

*Environmental Justice* is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

*Fair Treatment* means that no group of people, including racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic groups, should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of federal, state, local, and tribal environmental programs and policies.

*Meaningful Involvement* means that: (1) potentially affected community residents have an appropriate opportunity to participate in decisions about a proposed activity that will affect their environment and/or health; (2) the public's contribution can influence the regulatory agency's decision; (3) the concerns of all participants involved will be considered in the decision-making process; and (4) decision makers seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.

### **III. INTEGRATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE- PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIC TARGETS**

Meeting the challenge of environmental justice is integral to EPA's achievement of its mission and the goals and objectives established in the Agency's Strategic Plan. The development and execution of priority and appropriate EJ Strategic Targets, which are aligned with the Agency's Strategic Plan, is the long-term approach that the Agency is following for the integration and advancement of environmental justice. The EJ Strategic Plan, therefore, links to, and is aligned with, the Agency's Strategic Plan and other planning and budget documents.

The Agency's overall success in advancing environmental justice depends, in many respects, on the identification and achievement of appropriate EPA environmental justice priorities and strategic targets. Thus, the Agency has identified its priority areas of environmental justice work, and each EPA Program Office, in coordination with the Regions, has established appropriate Environmental Justice Strategic Targets and performance measures that are aligned with the goals/objectives/sub-objectives in the Agency's Strategic Plan. While these priorities and strategic targets will help achieve the environmental justice goal, they may change in the future based on experience, suggestions of stakeholders and partners, and research.

#### **A. Environmental Justice Priorities (Potential/Proposed)**

*[NOTE: The following 12 potential EPA national environmental justice priorities were developed by EPA's Environmental Justice Strategic Planning Work Group, a group comprised of regional and program office Environmental Justice Coordinators, planning staff, and staff from the Office of Environmental Justice. The potential priorities include both public health and environmental protection issues. While we will continue to take action on a wide range of environmental justice concerns, using a spectrum of strategies including cross-cutting approaches (e.g., community capacity building, grants, training, data management), we intend to*

*select 5-7 priorities for heightened attention. Therefore, in addition to providing comments on the overall Outline, we ask that you rank the potential priorities (1 = highest rank to 12 = lowest) and submit your ranking with your other comments. If you have additional suggested priorities, please include those as well. Also, please note that while we have grouped each priority under a specific media heading (e.g., Water, Air), several of the potential priorities could apply to more than one media.]*

**Air**

- (1) Reduce asthma attacks

**Water**

- (2) Safe fish/shellfish
- (3) Safe drinking water
- (4) Reduced exposure to water borne pathogens

**Land Preservation and Restoration (Solid Waste and Emergency Response)**

- (5) Revitalization of brownfields/contaminated sites

**Toxics**

- (6) Reduce the incidence of childhood lead poisoning
- (7) Reduce exposure to mercury
- (8) Reduce exposure to pesticides
- (9) Reduce exposure to air toxics

**Enforcement and Compliance**

- (10) Assuring Compliance

**Place-Based**

- (11) Increase environmental health along the borders of the United States
- (12) Healthy schools

**B. Environmental Justice Strategic Targets**

- 1. GOAL 1: CLEAN AIR AND GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE**
- 2. GOAL 2: CLEAN AND SAFE WATER**
- 3. GOAL 3: LAND PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION**

- 4. GOAL 4: HEALTHY COMMUNITIES AND ECOSYSTEMS**
- 5. GOAL 5: COMPLIANCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP**
- 6. REGIONAL PROGRAMS**
- 7. CROSS-GOAL STRATEGIES**

#### **IV. LINKING THE EJ STRATEGIC PLAN TO BUDGET AND PERFORMANCE**

The EJ Strategic Plan must also be consistent with the Agency's overarching Strategic Plan to ensure a consistent standard for measuring performance and results. The Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) requires agencies to report to Congress each year on their progress toward their strategic goals. Under GPRA, agencies set annual performance goals and establish measures to determine how well they are achieving those goals. Annual Performance Reports, summarizing these findings, are due to Congress after the end of each fiscal year.

EPA's strategic planning "architecture"—the Goals, Objectives, and Sub-Objectives used to plan work, develop budgets, and account for resources—is also designed to help track performance. Each of the 5 long-range strategic goals (Clean Air and Global Climate Change, Clean and Safe Water, Land Preservation and Restoration, Healthy Communities and Ecosystems, and Compliance and Environmental Stewardship) is broken down into a number of Objectives that describe planned accomplishments over a 5-year period in order to attain the Agency's larger goals. The Objectives are supported by a series of Sub-Objectives, which are more focused on the specific results the Agency intends to achieve during those 5 years.

In 2003, EPA included another element in the Agency's Strategic Plan architecture, strategic targets. Strategic targets are set for 5-years and are used to quantitatively track progress toward meeting the Sub-Objectives. The Agency generally develops annual performance goals to mirror each of the strategic targets, in order for EPA to measure its progress each year toward meeting the targets. EPA's strategic architecture presents a multi-year map for achieving Agency goals. It shows how accomplishments at each level—annual performance goals, strategic targets, sub-objectives, and objectives—"add up" to the next level and, ultimately, toward a strategic goal of "Clean Air" or "Clean and Safe Water." This structure also enables the Agency to measure performance on an annual basis and to track progress over the long-term. The EJ Strategic Plan will follow the same Agency construct.

**APPENDIX I**

**SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION EFFORTS**

EPA promotes partnerships, outreach, and communication with affected communities, Federal, Tribal, State, and local governments, environmental organizations, academic institutions, non-profit organizations, and business and industry. Identifying and addressing environmental justice concerns requires the early involvement of affected communities and other stakeholders. Approaches to effectively address environmental justice issues will be explored and key groups will be engaged to help the Agency identify the best approaches and methods to effectively integrate environmental justice into its strategic planning process.

**APPENDIX II**

**EVALUATION AND REPORTING PROGRESS**

The goal of program evaluation is to provide useful, objective, and timely information about the extent to which desired results are being achieved. The Agency will identify ways to assess its progress toward meeting its established environmental justice strategic targets. The assessment will facilitate improvements and also assist in determining alternative approaches to addressing the environmental and public health concerns in areas with disproportionate environmental risks or impacts. Because Federal agencies are expected to demonstrate how their activities contribute to achieving Agency goals, EPA will determine the most effective and efficient methods to assess overall progress. This section will describe this process and assessments undertaken.